**Department of World Languages and Literatures**

**California State University, San Bernardino**

**SPRING 2020**

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**FREN 290: French Literature in English**

Section 01 Class No. 42076

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Time: TR 4:00 – 5:40 PM

Location: Zoom (We’ll probably meet for an hour)

Professor: Mary Ann McGuire

Office hours: TR 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM on Zoom

Email: [mmcguire@csusb.edu](mailto:mmcguire@csusb.edu)

Last day to drop class without record: April 20th

Final – Tuesday, June 9th , 4:00 PM

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course provides a sampling of French literature through one classic French novel and one contemporary French-Canadian novel (*Bury Your Dead*). The contemporary novel involves a murder mystery with historical implications from French Canadian literature. The classic French novel, (*Georges*) written in 1843, focuses on race, oppression and cultural identity. Students will hopefully acquire a critical knowledge of literary themes, structures, narratives and differing cultural perspectives. Classroom activities, discussions, presentations and assignments will encourage readers to bring their own knowledge and experience to the task of reading and will foster analytical thinking while developing research and communication skills. Feature films, other videos, a TED Talk, and online articles will supplement these readings.

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**REQUIRED TEXTS**

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Dumas, Alexandre (2008). *Georges.* Modern Library Paperback Edition

ISBN: 978-0-8129-7589-5

Penny, Louise (2010). *Bury Your Dead*. Minotaur Books

ISBN: 978-0-312-62690-7

**Note well:** If you do not purchase ***Georges*** at the beginning of the quarter, you may have a difficult time trying to find it when the assigned readings come due. A used rented paperback version of Georges is $8.64 at the bookstore; purchased used it is $13.50; purchased new it is $18.00. ***Bury Your Dead*** is slightly cheaper.

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**Course website:** [**Blackboard**](http://french.csusb.edu/moodle/login/index.php) **Content**

**Homework Assignments:** All due dates are listed below

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**GRADING**

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Zoom meeting / Discussion Board 190 points

Web Assignments (3 W. A. at 50 points each) 150 points

Quizzes (15 quizzes at 25 points each) 375 points

Writing Assignment (*Bury Your Dead*) 100 points

Writing Assignment (*Georges*) 100 points

Presentation 45 points

Final Writing Assignment 40 points 1000 points

Quizzes have 8 or 9 questions. If you get 5 right, you will have 25 points which is 100%.

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**Grading Scale**

930 – 1000 = A 730 - 769 = C

900 - 929 = A- 700 - 729 = C-

870 - 899 = B+ 670 – 699 =D+

830 - 869 = B 630 - 669 =D

800 - 829 = B- 600 - 629 =D-

770 - 799 = C+ ≤599 = F

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Quizzes

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Quiz 1 - *The Rocket* (film)

25 Quiz 2 - Bury Your Dead – Chapters 1-4

25 Quiz 3 - *Bury Your Dead* – Chapters 5-8

25 Quiz 4 - *Bury Your Dead* - Chapters 9-11

25 Quiz 5 - *Bury Your Dead* – Chapters 12-14

0 Quiz 6 - *Bury Your Dead* - Chapters 15-19

20 Quiz 7 - *Bury Your Dead* - Chapters 20-22

0 Quiz 8 - *Bury Your Dead - Chapters* 23-26

- Quiz 9 – *Intouchables* (film)

25 Quiz 10 - *Georges –* Chapters I – IV

25 Quiz 11 - *Georges –* Chapters V – IX

25 Quiz 12 - *Georges –* Chapters X – IV

25 Quiz 13 - *Georges –* Chapters XV – XVIII

0 Quiz 14 – *Georges –* Chapters XIX – XXIII

0 Quiz 15 – *Georges* – Chapters XXIV – XXVII

25 Quiz 16 – Georges – Chapters XXVIII - XXX

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**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

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Students will give a recorded presentation as part of a team. Web resources and tips for organizing each presentation will be posted on Blackboard. Presentations will be evaluated in terms of content, organization, and delivery and will receive a team grade. Presentation length per topic/team: maximum of 7 minutes. If you have difficulty with team members regarding communication in a courteous and timely way, preparedness, cooperation, or any other difficulty, you must let me know. You grade will not suffer because of someone else’s discourtesy or lack of preparedness.

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**Two Major Writing Assignments**

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**1. Writing assignment for *Bury Your Dead*:** a **4-5-page** (double-spaced) paper (approximately **1400 words (2 articles + 1 cartoon** *or* **one article + 1 advice column + 1 cartoon) to 2100 (3 articles)**. Double-space your paper. This paper is due on Thursday, May 14th .

**2. Writing assignment for Georges -** the same length requirement as the **Bury Your Dead** assignment**.** This assignment is due on Thursday, June 4th .

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**Final – June 9th 4:00**

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You will do a reflective writing using critical thinking and your understanding of cultural difference as you answer essay questions and discuss the readings, web assignments, movies and/or presentations. Be specific and thoughtful.

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**PARTICIPATION AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

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You are expected to complete your work on time.

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**NOTE:** Please be advised that *participation* accounts for **19% of the final course grade**. This is neither an online course, nor a hybrid. In order for your participation to be recorded, you must sign the attendance sheet each and every class that you attend as well as having your name on the notes that your group will turn in. If personal or work-related circumstances prevent you from attending class, please contact your professor via email immediately explaining your situation. Determinations as to whether an absence will be recorded as “excused” or “unexcused” will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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**Plagiarism:** Your work must also be original. Plagiarism (including copying material from the

Web) and other forms of cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. If plagiarism

and/or cheating is discovered you will receive a zero for the assignment and you will not be able to redo it.

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*Education means going from cocksure ignorance to thoughtful uncertainty.*

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**SCHEDULE**

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Tuesday, April 7th

Personal Introductions

Course Introduction / Syllabus - Activity/ Blackboard

Question Format Exercise (tentative)

**Homework assignment due April 14th**

Web Assignment # 1 (to be found in the Content Section of Blackboard)

Purchase *Bury Your Dead* by Louise Penny and *Georges* by Alexandre Dumas

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Thursday, April 9th

Documentary: ***Quebec My Country Mon Pays*** (89 minutes) made in 2016

Usually I show *The Rocket,* abiopic about Maurice Richard, a famous hockey player from the middle of the 20th century. That film shows the discrimination against the francophone population during that period of time. I cannot show it now because it is unavailable online. I found this documentary and, having watched it, I really got a better sense of the anglophone’s situation in Quebec. This understanding will directly inform your reading of *Bury Your Dead*.

**Homework writing assignment due Thursday, April 21st :**

Web Assignment **#**2 on the video, *Quebec My Country Mon Pays*

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Tuesday, April 14th

**Homework reading assignment due Thursday, April 16th :**

2. *Bury Your Dead – pp. 1-51 (Chapters 1-4)*

**Reader’s Guide available on Blackboard** (this will help you with the plot and characters)

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Thursday, April 16th

The first web assignment gave background information on Quebecois history and cultural tensions and will help you understand the backstory for events in the novel.

Flashbacks and why they are used…

You can **use flashbacks** for any number of reasons, but its primary purpose is to bridge time, place and action to reveal a past emotional event or physical conflict that affects the character. Sometimes, it gives insight and understanding into a character's behavior or solves a past mystery.

**Homework reading assignment due Tuesday, April 21st :**

**Reading**: *Bury Your Dead*, pp. 53- 103 (Chapters 5-8)

**Web assignment #2**

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Tuesday, April 21st

Narratives in the context of identity; identity in the context of politics, and separatism (p. 53)

**Homework reading assignment due Thursday, April 23rd :**

**Reading**: *Bury Your Dead*, pp. 105-139 (Chapters 9-11)

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Thursday, April 23rd

Quiz and discussion on readings

“Gamache was no great fan of nationalism.” Why not? Nationalism vs patriotism? What is the difference?

**Homework due Tuesday, April 28th :**

**Reading**: *Bury Your Dead*, pp. 151-198 (Chapters 12-14)

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Tuesday, April 28th

In-class activities, quiz and discussion on readings

Socially constructed categories (Beauvoir not able to see people as both suspects and human – p. 154. Which socially constructed categories do you belong to? How do they enhance or limit your experience?

**Homework due Thursday, April 30th**

**Reading**: *Bury Your Dead*, pp. 199-262 - (Chapters 15-19)

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Thursday, April 30th

Quiz / Discussion

“Henri, the foundling, was a humanist, and while not particularly clever was the smartest creature Gamache knew. Everything he knew he knew by heart.” Can a dog be a humanist?

**Homework due Tuesday, May 5th**

**Reading:** *Bury Your Dead*, pp. 263-310 - (Chapters 20-22)

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Tuesday, May 5th

In-class activities, quiz and discussion on readings

**Presentation #1**

Misdirection – “Attention is a powerful thing; it shapes your reality.” Apollo Robbins – Ted talk

**Homework due Thursday, May 7th**

Readings: *Bury Your Dead*, pp. 311-371 - Chapters 23-26

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Thursday, May 7th

Quiz

Discussion of writing assignment for *Bury Your Dead*

**Presentation #2**

Does Ruth provide comic relief in Beauvoir’s reinvestigation of the murder of the Hermit?

**Homework due Tuesday, May 12th**

**Writing: Rough draft of the writing assignment for Bury Your Dead**

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Tuesday, May 12th

Peer editing of rough drafts using simple rubric

**Presentation #3**

**Homework due Thursday, May 14th**

**Final draft** of the writing assignment for ***Bury Your Dead***

**Reading**: *Georges*: pp. vi – 39 (Forward, Introduction & Chapters I- IV)

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Thursday, May 14th

**Presentation #**4

**Homework due Tuesday, May 19th**

**Reading:** *Georges*: pp. 40 – 89 (Chapters V-IX)

**Writing - Web assignment #3**

[Art Can Change the World](https://www.ted.com/talks/jr_my_wish_use_art_to_turn_the_world_inside_out?language=en)

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Tuesday, May 19th

**Presentation #5**

Characteristics of characters in novels in the Romantic Period

**Homework due Thursday, May 21st**

**Reading:** Georges: pp 90-137 (Chapters X – IX)

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Thursday, May 21st

In-class activities, quiz and discussion on reading

**Presentation #6**

Pierre Munier disarmed the whites with continual submission and humility. p.49

**Homework due Tuesday, May 26th**

**Reading**: *Georges*: pp. 138 – 183 (Chapters XV – XVIII)

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Tuesday, May 26th

**In-class activities, quiz and discussion on reading**

**Presentation #7**

Why does Laïza downplay his role in saving Sara from the shark?

**Homework due Thursday, May 28th**

**Reading:** *Georges*: pp.184 – 223 (Chapters IX – XXIII)

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Thursday, May 28th

In-class activities, quiz and discussion on reading

**Presentation #8**

Quotes on slavery

**Homework due Tuesday, June 2nd**

**Reading**: Georges: pp.224 – 262 (Chapters XXIV – XXVII)

Writing: Begin the diary entries for the writing assignment for *Georges*

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Tuesday, June 2nd

In-class activities, quiz and discussion on reading

**Presentation # 9**

Quotes on revenge

**Homework due Thursday, June 4th**

**Reading**: *Georges*: pp. 263 – 292 (XXVIII – XXX)

Final draft of writing assignment for *Georges*

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Thursday, June 4th

You will do a reflective writing, using critical thinking and your understanding of the cultural differences apparent in the course material, and discuss the readings, web assignments, and movies. Be specific and thoughtful. This last assignment is worth 40 points. If you have 930 points before the final, you don’t *have* to take it; you already have an A.

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Tuesday, June 9th

**Final exam**

You will do a reflective writing, using critical thinking and your understanding of the cultural differences apparent in the course material, and discuss the readings, web assignments, and movies. Be specific and thoughtful. This last assignment is worth 40 points. If you have 930 points before the final, you don’t *have* to take it; you already have an A. If you have less than 930 points and do not take the final, do not contact your professor complaining about your grade later on.

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